Message Text

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TAGS: AORG, WMO

SUBJECT: WMO SYG POSITION: POTENTIAL US CANDIDATE

REFS: (A) DEPTAIR A-4947,12/13/77; (B) GENEVA 4478

- 1. DURING MARCH 28 CORDIAL AND INFORMATIVE MEETING WITH SYG DAVIES, ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES EXPRESSED USG APPRECIATION FOR DAVIES' LEADERSHIP AND STRESSED US RECOGNITION IMPORTANCE OF WMO ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY CLIMATE AND WORLD WEATHER WATCH.
- 2. IN FRANK AND INFORMAL ATMOSPHERE, MAYNES EXPLAINED US CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN FOR GROWTH IN SOME SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES FUNDED FROM REGULAR BUDGETS, AND INDICATED US APPRECIATION FOR DAVIES UPHOLDING POLICY THAT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN WMO MUST CONLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TINUE TO BE BASED ON VOLUNTARY FINANCING. DAVIES OUTLINED BRIEFLY HIS DRAFT PROGRAM/BUDGET FOR 1980-1983 WHICH WILL TOTAL ABOUT DOLS 68 MILLION.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT VISIT TO IO/SCT ON MARCH 29, DR. DAVIES DESCRIBED IN MORE DETAIL HIS PROGRAM/BUDGET, WHICH WILL BE EXAMINED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEXT JUNE, STRESSING THE

DIFFICULTY OF FORESEEING CHANGES IN COST, SALARIES AND CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES DURING NEXT FEW YEARS. HE BELIEVES THAT SOME OF THE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES COULD BE AVOIDED IF SWISS FRANCS WERE USED AS BASIC CURRENCY OF WMO BUDGET. DAVIES ALSO REVIEWED HIS PROGRAM/BUDGET IN THE LIGHT OF THE REALIZATION BY MANY MEMBER STATES (THE US FOREMOST AMONG THEM) THAT MANY BASIC WORLD PROBLEMS ARE RELATED TO WEATHER AND CLIMATE AND THEREFORE CALL FOR APPROPRIATE WMO PROGRAMS

- 4. DURING DAVIES' MEETING WITH MAYNES, THERE WAS NO OPPORTUNITY TO BRING UP SUBJECT OF DAVIES' DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT HE WILL SEEK REAPPOINTMENT, AND DR. WHITE'S POTENTIAL CANDIDACY FOR THE SYG POSITION. AS NOTED IN PARA 2, REF.A, IO DEPSEC FRANK INDICATED TO DAVIES LAST SEPTEMBER THAT IF HE DECIDED NOT RUN AGAIN, THE US WOULD HAVE A CANDIDATE FOR THE POST OF SYG. ON THAT OCCASION DAVIES REITERATED HE WOULD MAKE HIS INTENTION KNOWN AT THE 30TH EC.
- 5. DEPT FEELS THAT IT WOULD BE ENTIRELY PROPER TWO OR THREE WEEKS BEFORE EC XXX CONVENES, POSSIBLY DURING FIRST WEEK IN MAY, FOR THE MISSION TO SEEK AN INDICATION OF DAVIES' INTENTION. DAVIES HIMSELF HAS EXPRESSED TO THE DEPT AND TO DR. WHITE HIS DEEP CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEADERSHIP OF WMO AND THE DANGER THAT THE NEXT SYG MIGHT BE APPOINTED ON POLITICAL GROUNDS RATHER THAN ON THE BASIS OF HIS SCIENTIFIC AND MANAGERIAL QUALIFICATIONS.

- 6. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE DEPT TO ASSESS THE PROSPECTS OF DR. WHITE'S CANDIDACY FOR THIS POSITION AND TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ENSURE MAXIMUM SUPPORT FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. ON THE BASIS OF OUR SOUNDINGS AND DR. WHITE'S CONSULTATIONS WITH KEY MEMBER STATES, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT DR. WHITE'S CHANCES TO BE ELECTED ARE GOOD.
- 7. AT MISSION'S DISCRETION, THE DEPT SUGGESTS THAT PROBE OF DAVIES' INTENTIONS BE UNDERTAKEN PRIVATELY BY THE AMBASSADOR OR THE DCM. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO REGISTER A FURTHER INQUIRY WITH DR. DAVIES AT THIS TIME IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN TO MAKE HIM AWARE THAT USG REMAINS STRONGLY INTERESTED IN PROMOTING DR. WHITE'S CANDIDACY IN THE EVENT THE SYG HIMSELF DECIDES NOT TO SEEK REAPPOINTMENT
- 8. FOR MISSION INFO: IN LATE APRIL DR. WHITE WILL ATTEND

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN VIENNA. SUBSEQUENTLY HE WILL BE IN GENEVA FROM MAY 1 TO 8. VANCE

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